

# Municipal Update

Volume I, Issue I

September 1, 2008

## General Information

One Grand Street  
Coldwater, MI 49036

Office:  
517-279-9531

Internet Helpdesk:  
517-278-9276

Websites:  
www.cbpu.com  
www.coldwater.org

Payment options:  
Mail, Drop-box, Automatic Bill Pay, On-Line Bill Pay or just stop in Mon-Fri, 8 am - 5 pm

Suggestions for Newsletter:  
Newsletter@coldwater.org



Trick-or-Treating will start at 5:30 p.m. October 31st. Have a safe and fun Halloween night!

The City and CBPU Offices will be closed November 27th & 28th in observance of the Holiday.

**Fall Clean Up Dates!**  
Final Brush Pickup is October 6th.  
Final Yard Waste Pick up is November 24th.  
Loose Leaf Pickup Ends on November 26th.



## Are Your Appliances Literally Draining You?

Summer's almost over, so for most people, that means things should start to slow down and everyone will get back to their normal routines. This can be a great time to take a moment to focus on your home energy use. Making some small changes at home can really make a big difference on your utility bill. There are many things that can contribute to high energy use. Of course, the amount of heating and cooling you do can have the biggest effect on your utility bill. Older appliances that aren't energy efficient can also use a lot more energy than ENERGY STAR qualified appliances.

Although it may not be feasible to unplug your refrigerator or oven when you're not using them, there are probably several appliances you can unplug when not in use. Did you know that the average home has more than 25 electronic products and many of those devices are left plugged in 24 hours a day? Did you know those devices continue to draw power even when they are off?

### Tips to Save Energy & Money:

1. Lighting is one the easiest steps you can take to start saving energy. Replacing at least your five most frequently used light fixtures with ENERGY STAR qualified light bulbs can save more than \$65 per year. They last up to 10 times longer, use less energy and you'll see the savings right away.
2. Before winter starts, remember to replace your screens with storm windows. Caulk and weather-strip around windows and doors that leak air. If replacing windows with ENERGY STAR qualified models, save \$20-\$95 per year.
3. Install a low-flow shower head. Even a 10 minute shower beats taking a full bath. This can save over \$140 a year!
4. While we're on the subject, fix those water leaks. Leaks inside the toilet can waste over 200 gallons of water a day. (Check for a toilet leak by adding a few drops of food coloring to the tank. Coloring will appear in the toilet if it's leaking.)
5. Install a programmable thermostat to control air conditioning usage or heating hours. This is a great way to control temperatures when you're not home or asleep.
6. At least 15% of your electricity use is due to home electronics. Choose ENERGY STAR electronics that save energy when off, while still maintaining features like clock displays, channel settings and remote control functions.
7. Turn off the lights! Turning off one 60-watt incandescent light bulb, that would burn 8 hours a day can save you \$15 per year per bulb!
8. If your current fridge was made before 1993, it uses twice as much energy as a new ENERGY STAR qualified model. Are you using a old fridge in your basement or garage?

It only takes a few of the suggestions listed above to save energy, water and reduce your utility bills at the same time.

## Recycle It!

We are very fortunate to live in a City that offers a free recycling program to residents who have disposal service. Before throwing something away, ask yourself if it could be recycled. If you're not recycling now, please think about how good it will feel to know you're helping the environment. Give us a call 279-9531. We'll be happy to drop off recycling bins to you!

### Items that can recycled:

- Newspaper & all inserts
  - Box board
  - Magazines
  - Catalogs
  - Flattened corrugated boxes
  - Mixed paper & junk mail
  - Glass bottles & jars
  - Metal food containers
  - Plastic jugs & bottles
- (Please keep paper in a separate bin from plastic, glass and metal.)

### Items that cannot be recycled:

- Pizza boxes
- Thermal fax & carbon paper
- Light bulbs
- Window, drinking, Pyrex, ceramic or decorative glass
- Oil containers
- Tubs, buckets, bags or lids
- Plastic bags
- Styrofoam
- Paper napkins and cups

# CBPU City Wide Hydrant Flushing

Beginning September 15th at 8:00 a.m., the water department will begin its semi-annual hydrant operating program. All city and privately owned fire hydrants within the Coldwater Board of Public Utilities water system will be operated.

Because accumulations of iron and manganese are loosened by operating the hydrants, residents may experience periodic discolored water between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. This is a good time for homeowners to remember to flush hot water heaters which will improve water quality and efficiency. The CBPU recommends doing laundry during the evening hours if crews are in the vicinity during the day.

Motorists are urged to use caution in and around areas where hydrant operation is taking place and children should avoid these areas.

The program will begin on Monday, September 15, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. and conclude around 4:00 p.m. Friday, September 26, 2008. Generally, all operations will be done between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. except Wednesday morning September 17th, crews will be starting at 6:00 a.m. at N. Sprague Street and E. Chicago Street., and work westward though the downtown area and then north on Marshall Street to the Branch County Sheriff's Department.

For further information, please contact Tom Spitzner, Water Superintendent at 279-9531.

The following schedule indicates where crews should be during the two-week period:

Monday, September 15th	Ward 1
Tuesday, September 16th	Ward 1
Wednesday, September 17th (Downtown & Marshall St)	Ward 1 / 2
Thursday, September 18th	Ward 2
Friday, September 19th	Ward 2
Monday, September 22nd	Ward 4
Tuesday, September 23rd	Ward 4
Wednesday, September 24th	Ward 3 / 4
Thursday, September 25th	Ward 3
Friday, September 26th	Ward 3

# Digital Transition Information

As a customer of CBPU Cable, you should not have to do anything when broadcast TV stations go to their new digital format on February 17, 2009. That's because we have already invested in the technology to convert local TV stations from the digital picture to be able to work with your current TV set.

CBPU Cable does so by capturing and converting these digital signals and then sending them to your home through the same cable you have today.

**As long as your TV sets are connected to cable, they should display local television stations.**

Analog-only TVs in your home not currently connected to cable service will need to be connected to cable service or may require additional equipment such as a DTV converter box. Analog-only TVs should continue to work as before with cable TV services, gaming consoles, VCRs, DVD players, and similar products.

After February 17, 2009, a television receiver with only an analog broadcast tuner will require a converter box to receive over-the-air broadcasts through an antenna because of the Nation's transition to digital broadcasting. More information on the DTV transition is available from [www.DTV.gov](http://www.DTV.gov) and from [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov) or **1-888-DTV-2009**.

If you have any questions, please contact the CBPU Customer Service Department 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday at 279-9531.

# Did you know...

Coldwater Mayor Gene Wallace has appointed Craig Lynch to the Board of Directors of the Coldwater Board of Public Utilities. He replaces Walt Lane who served 21 years on the Board. Mr. Lynch is the executive vice president and CFO for



Alliance Foods, Inc. He has lived in Coldwater for 11 years with his wife and family and is a member of the Coldwater Noon Rotary Club.

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Customer Service: 279-9531  
Expiration Date: 12/31/2008

The City Council meets the second and fourth Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Second Floor of the H.L. Brown Municipal Building. All citizens are encouraged to attend council meetings. This is the forum to voice your concerns regarding community issues.

You can also communicate through your Councilmember. First Ward Councilmembers: Cisco Ortiz & Tim Miller. Second Ward Councilmembers: Chris Pierce & Mitch Rice. Third Ward Councilmembers: Tom Kramer & Maureen Petzko. Fourth Ward Councilmembers: Randall Hazelbaker & Heather Peet.